

# CHANGES TO DISTRIBUTION OF PAPER COPIES OF THE BNF AND BNFC



## Changes to Distribution Paper BNF

British National Formulary (BNF) Publications provide doctors, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals with evidence based, up-to-date, and timely information about the use of drugs by including key information on the selection, prescribing, dispensing, and administration of drugs.

NICE manages the provision of the BNF and the BNF for Children (BNFC) to the NHS on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care.

In Northern Ireland, HSC have a

contract with NICE for BNF services, and the distribution of paper copies of BNF and BNFC is facilitated by colleagues in the Business Services Organisation each year.

User research involving a wide range of NHS clinicians demonstrates a preference for the online and mobile app versions of the BNF.

Year on year, NICE are reducing the provision for print versions of the BNF/BNFC; and BSO and SPPG have also been revising the current provision of BNF services within HSC.

This decision is part of a series of measures taken by NICE to facilitate the switch to using the freely digital versions across key stakeholder organisations. It is further supported by the following key considerations:

Clinical safety : Print versions of the BNF/BNFC are sent out once a year however, clinical information is updated monthly. Print versions are therefore out of date as soon as they are received whereas digital versions offer up to date and accurate information

Environmental impact: Printing and distribution of the BNF/BNFC uses significant resources associated with a corresponding carbon footprint. Switching to digital only format aligns with the national priority to deliver a Net Zero National Health Service by 2040.

Digital transformation: Removing print versions of BNF/BNFC and switching to digital only format supports the NHS Long Term Plan of digital transformation in the NHS.

Digital versions of the BNF/BNFC can be accessed via:

<a href="#">BNF British National Formulary - NICE</a>	Free to use Easily accessible, no log-in/registration required
App Store or Google play	Free to use <b>Fully functional without the need for the internet*</b>

\*In relation to the BNF app, the first time that you use the App, you will be asked to register. Please use your “hscni.net” email to register. Once the App has been downloaded, the full download and app takes up around 600MB of data, which is the same as Facebook, or 50 songs at high quality.

NICE have produced comprehensive information on how to use the BNF online and this is available at the link below:

[How to use BNF Publications online | About | BNF content published by NICE](#)

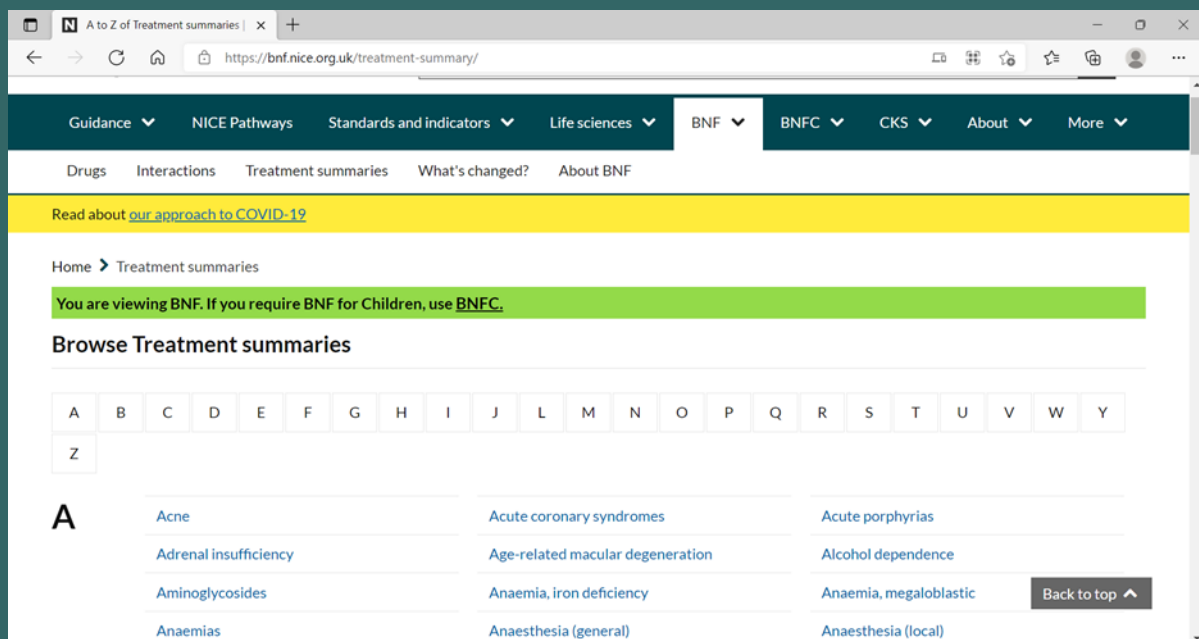
This provides information on the following:

- Overview of the format of the online BNF
- Structure of the online BNF
- How to navigate the online BNF
- How to access Treatment Summaries
- How to access Drug Monographs
- Minimising harm and drug safety, including drug interactions, cautions and side effects
- Using drugs in certain situations e.g. hepatic/renal impairment
- Medicinal forms of drugs available

## How to access Treatment Summaries

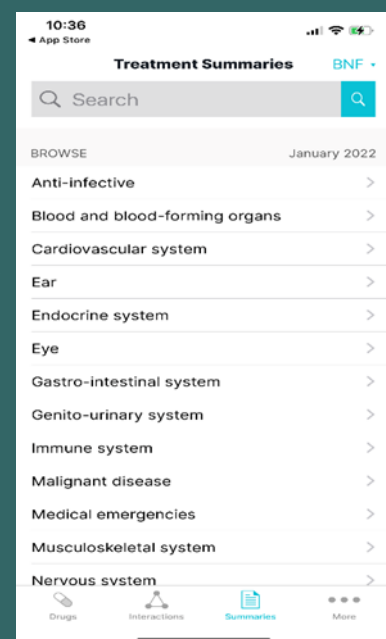
### Via BNF online

Healthcare professionals often wish to check the BNF for treatment summaries. To access treatment summaries, click on the “Treatment Summaries” on the ribbon at the top of the home screen, and then search alphabetically for the required information as below screen dump details below:



### Via the BNF App

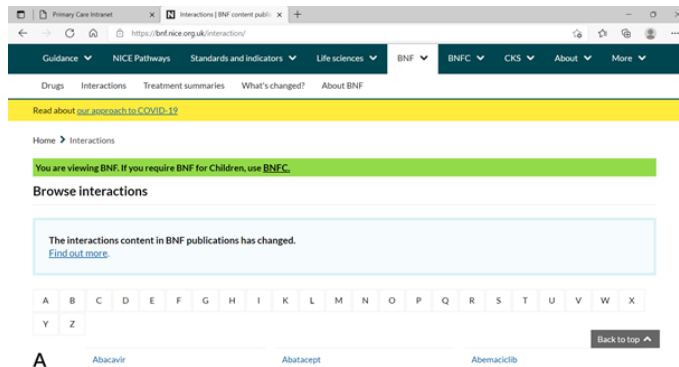
All treatment summaries can be accessed via the tab at the bottom of the screen. All Treatment Summaries are then listed in alphabetical order



## Drug Interactions

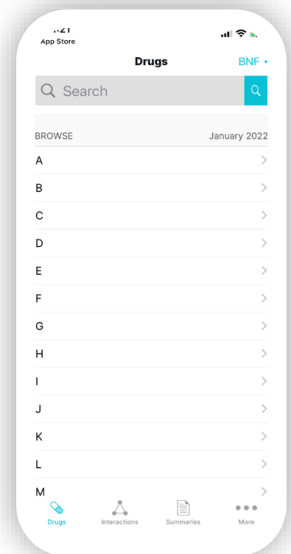
### Via BNF online

Guidance on Drug Interactions can be accessed via the “Interactions” tab on the Home page, and then click on whichever drug is appropriate (drugs are listed alphabetically). The advantage of the online version is that all of the patient’s medicines can be added to list all the potential drug interactions, rather than multiple “look-ups” with the paper copy



### Via the BNF app

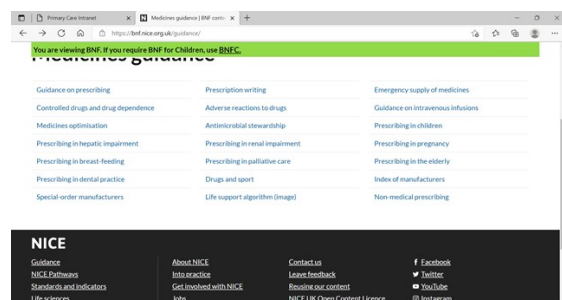
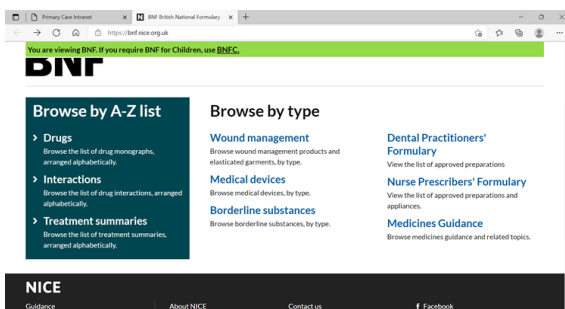
Guidance on prescribing on Drug Interactions can be accessed via the “Interactions” tab on the bottom of the screen, and then click search for the drug which you wish to review interactions for



## Medicines Guidance

### Via BNF online

Guidance on prescribing for specific patient groups can be accessed via the “Medicines Guidance” tab on the Home page, and then click on whichever guidance is required



## Via the BNF app

Guidance on prescribing for specific patient groups can be accessed via the “More” tab on the bottom right hand side of the screen, and then click on “Guidance”

